



Embassy of the United States of America Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

Freetown

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United States Embassy Commends SLP, ACC

March 15 — The United States Embassy wishes to recognize the outstanding efforts of the Sierra Leone Police and the Anti Corruption Commission in investigating and prosecuting cases of fraud and corruption in Sierra Leone in recent months.

In particular, the Sierra Leone Police Criminal Investigations Division recently pursued a case of document fraud involving United States visa applications. The professionalism and thoroughness with which the case was handled went a long way to demonstrate the capacity of the police force to ensure the integrity of Sierra Leonean documents. Fraud and abuse of the systems brings into question the authenticity of Sierra Leonean passports and identity documents, threatening the ability of all Sierra Leonean citizens to freely travel throughout the world. We urge all government officials to cooperate with the SLP's efforts to bring these criminals to justice.

In addition, the United States Embassy wishes to express its recognition of the efforts of the Anti Corruption Commission, and specifically of Commissioner Abdul Tejan-Cole, for investigating corruption in government, including the Immigration department, regardless of the level at which it appears. His courageous efforts to go after officials at all levels, demonstrates a clear commitment to the democratic ideals that will bring Sierra Leone closer to its development aspirations. Again, we encourage government officials and the public do everything in their power to support the efforts of the ACC to ensure a bright future for Sierra Leone.